herever any abnormal prices increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. The manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

The NPPA has also stepped up enforcement activities and a separate enforcement division has been started which purchases medicines from the market to check that prices fixed by NPPA are implemented. No such information has been brought to the notice of NPPA regarding charging of exorbitant prices of drugs and formulations without any control/check by pharmaceutical companies.

DAP supply to U.P. and Bihar

†1279. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of DAP as requisitioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, respectively;

(b) what is the quantity of DAP released to these States as against their respective demand;

(c) whether a separate package increasing the quantity of DAP for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has been given for the 'rabi' crop in view of the failure of 'Kharif' crop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The requirement and availability of DAP for Kharif, 2008 and Rabi' 2008-09 in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is as under:

Qty. in ('000 MTs)

Season	Uttar Pradesh		Bihar	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Kharif '08	500.00	723.48	150.00	186.80
Rabi' 08-09 (upto November, 2008)	650.00	568.77	190.00	135.42

(c) and (d) The demand of various fertilizers is assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultation with State Agriculture Department. The Department of Fertilizers (DOF) facilitates availability of decontrolled fertilizers *viz.*, is DAP/MOP/NPK etc. in accordance with assessed requirement. No allocation is given by DOF for decontrolled fertilizers as has been in the case of urea.

Variation in medicine prices leading to exploitation of patients

†1280. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of having almost same ingredients, different pharmaceutical companies are selling their drugs at different rates by using their brand names;

(b) whether it is also a fact that doctors prescribe costly branded drugs in order to get more commission, which causes exploitation of patients; and

(c) whether Government will make arrangement to sell the drugs by its generic name instead of brand names?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. The Government / NPPA fixes / revises their prices from time to time as per formula provided under DPCO.

As per the DPCO '95 every manufacturer or importer shall carry into effect the price of a bulk drugs or formulation as the case may be, as fixed by the Government from time to time, within fifteen days from the date of notification in the official Gazette or receipt of the order of the Government in this behalf by such manufacturer or importer.

In respect of drugs, which are not covered under prices control (non-scheduled formulations), the manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government / NPPA. Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturer themselves considering the various factors like cost of production, marketing/ selling expenses, R & D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. In some cases it is observed that companies are selling different brands at different rates. There is no provision in DPCO, 95 to restrict different prices for different brands in case of non-scheduled formulations.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to promote the use of generic medicines instead of branded medicines. In this directions Government has decided to open "Jan Aushadhi" generic drug stores in the country depending upon the financial assistance and other support offered by respective State Governments to sell the medicines by their generic names instead of brand names. Government has already inaugurated a 'Jan Aushadhi' generic drug store at civil hospital, Amritsar on 25.11.2008. Prices of generic medicines will be cheaper in comparison of branded medicines.

Package for pharmaceutical industry

1281. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical industry is facing financial crunch due to duel marketing;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes any financial package/incentive to revive the small scale pharmaceutical industry; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a)and (b) In the light of the present global financial crisis, the Government has announced on 7th December,